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Message Text

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17
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-05 AID-05 /105 W
---------- 127439
O R 160940Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3745
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4497

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, ASEAN, KS, KN, SN
SUBJ: KOREA AT 30TH UNGA: SINGAPORE POSITION

REF: STATE 244144

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM HAS ASSURED US OF GOS SUPPORT IN MAINTAINING VOTING PRIORITY IN FAVOR OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. HE ALSO STATES THAT GOS IS OPPOSED TO NK RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, HE REMAINS COMMITTED TO ASEAN DRAFT COMPROMISE RESOLUTION AS BEST MEANS OF DEFEATING HOSTILE RESOLUTION AND ASSURING MAINTENANCE OF PEACEFUL SITUATION ON KOREAN PENINSULA. END SUMMARY.

1. IN KEEPING WITH INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL, I CALLED ON GOS FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM OCTOBER 16, AND MADE STRONG PITCH FOR GOS SUPPORT ON PROCEDURAL MOTIONS AND FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. I RECALLED THE SECRETARY'S AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB'S CONVERSATIONS WITH RAJARATNAM IN NEW YORK AS INDICATION OF DEEP IMPORTANCE US ATTACHED TO KOREAN ISSUE, AND POINTED OUT WAYS IN WHICH HOSTILE RESOLUTION DID NOT CONTRIBUTE TO BUT RATHER DETRACTED FROM PEACEFUL EVOLUTION IN KOREA. I LAID PARTICULAR
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EMPHASIS ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUPPORT OF US BY ASIAN FRIENDS

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SUCH AS ASEAN COUNTRIES ON KEY ISSUES SUCH AS KOREA AND MAINTENANCE OF US ROLE IN ASIA. I NOTED THAT WE CONSIDERED SINGAPORE'S VOTE ESSENTIAL ON MAINTAINING VOTING PRIORITY, WHICH WE BELIEVED WOULD SECURE PASSAGE OF OUR RESOLUTION.

2. RAJARATNAM AGREED ON NATURE OF HOSTILE RESOLUTION AS WELL AS IMPORTANCE OF US ROLE IN ASIA, AND GAVE FIRM ASSURANCES THAT SINGAPORE WOULD SUPPORT US IN MAINTAINING VOTING PRIORITY FOR OUR RESOLUTION; THIS, HE SAID, HAD IN FACT BEEN AGREED UPON IN NEW YORK AMONG ASEAN NATIONS.

3. RAJARATNAM THEN DELIVERED A LONG EXPOSITION ON BEHALF OF ASEAN DRAFT COMPROMISE RESOLUTION, WHICH, HE ARGUED, WOULD BEST SERVE US INTERESTS IN PRESERVING PEACE ON KOREAN PENINSULA AS WELL AS CONTINUING US ROLE IN EAST ASIA. BASED ON HIS EXPERIENCE IN LIMA NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE, HE CLAIMED THAT ALL 90 COUNTRIES ATTENDING NAC WOULD VOTE AGAINST RESOLUTION FAVORING SOUTH KOREA, WHICH HAD ENJOYED NO SUPPORT WHATSOEVER AT LIMA. IF ADDED TO THIS WERE VOTES OF LAOS AND CAMBODIA, WHICH WERE IN FRIENDLY CAMP LAST YEAR, IT SEEMED CERTAIN TO HIM THAT OUR RESO-LUTION WOULD LOSE. IT WAS PRECISELY TO AVOID DEFEAT FOR US AND VICTORY FOR NK THAT ASEAN COUNTRIES HAD DRAFTED THEIR OWN RESOLUTION, WHICH HAD BEEN CAREFULLY DESIGNED TO "REMOVE TEETH OF NK RESOLUTION WHILE PRESERVING ITS FACE."

4. RAJARATNAM ACKNOWLEDGED INCLUSION OF PHRASEOLOGY FROM NK RESOLUTION IN ASEAN DRAFT, BUT INSISTED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING IN ASEAN WORDING WHICH CONTRADICTED US POSITION, E.G. SECTION ON DISSOLUTION OF UN COMMAND AND WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES UNDER THIS COMMAND WOULD NOT EFFECT US TROOPS STATIONED IN ROK UNDER MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY. MOREOVER, IN CALLING FOR DISCUSSIONS AMONG PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED RE PEACE TREATY, THIS DID NOT FOLLOW NK RESOLUTION'S LIMITING OF PEACE TREATY DISCUSSIONS TO SIGNATORIES OF ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, HENCE EXCLUDING THE ROK. RAJARATNAM NOTED THAT FRENCH COMPROMISE FORMULA EMPLOYED LANGUAGE IDENTICAL TO ASEAN DRAFT. FINALLY, RAJARATNAM DECLARED THAT ASEAN DRAFT PROVIDED FOR CONTINUATION OF ARMISTICE MECHANISM UNTIL SUCH TIME AS PEACE TREATY WAS SIGNED, WHICH COULD TAKE MANY YEARS.

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5. I COUNTERED BY RECALLING AVOWEDLY ANTI-US INTENT OF NK RESOLUTION, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO LANGUAGE ON DISSOLUTION OF UN COMMAND AND TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND FACT THAT INCLUSION OF SUCH LANGUAGE OF IDENTICAL LANGUAGE IN ASEAN DRAFT WOULD THEREBY EMBRACE THIS ANTI-US ELEMENT AND BE INIMICAL TO US INTERESTS (THIS WAS SAME POSITION I HAD OUTLINED IN MY CONVERSATION WITH PERMSEC CHIA CHEONG FOOK ON OCTOBER 8).

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6. RAJARATNAM AGAIN INSISTED THAT ISSUE AT STAKE WAS TO SECURE DEFEAT OF NK RESOLUTION, AND BEST WAY TO DO SO IN HIS JUDGMENT WAS TO FIND LANGUAGE WHICH COULD ATTRACT NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES DESPITE THEIR IDENTIFICATION WITH NK. OF COURSE, HE ADDED, IT WAS ALWAYS POSSIBLE THAT US RESOLUTION WOULD PASS IF IT RECEIVED VOTING PRIORITY AND HE HOPED THIS WOULD BE THE CASE. IF NOT, HE AND OTHER LIKE-MINDED ASEAN COUNTRIES WERE CONSIDERING SUBMITTING THEIR OWN DRAFT RESOLUTION AS MEANS OF PREVENTING NK RESOLUTION COMING TO A VOTE, WHICH IT THEN MIGHT WELL WIN. HE MENTIONED, INCIDENTALLY, THAT SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA WERE THE STRONGEST PROPONENTS OF THE ASEAN DRAFT COMPROMISE RESOLUTION, AND THAT OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS MIGHT HAVE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT VIEWS.

7. SINCE IT SEEMED BOTH THAT RAJARATNAM IS PRESENTLY PREOCCUPIED WITH ASEAN DRAFT COMPROMISE AND ALSO THAT HE IS STILL WATCHING DEVELOPMENTS IN NEW YORK CLOSELY, I DID NOT PRESS HIM FURTHER ON THIS OCCASION OTHER THAN TO URGE AGAIN FAVORABLE GOS CONSIDERATION OF OUR RESOLUTION AND OPPOSITION TO NK RESOLUTION. I ASKED IF I COULD KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HIM ON THIS ISSUE AND HE ASSENTED.

8. COMMENT: JUDGING BY RAJARATNAM'S EARNESTNESS IN PRESENTING CASE ON BEHALF OF ASEAN DRAFT COMPROMISE, IT APPEARS THAT EITHER RAJARATNAM PERSONALLY OR MEMBERS OF SINGAPORE UN DELEGATION SUCH AS TOMMY KOH HAD A MAJOR HAND IN DRAFTING IT. IF SINGAPORE'S PRESTIGE IS INVOLVED TO SUCH AN EXTENT, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO MORE THE SINGAPOREANS AWAY FROM THE ASEAN COMPROMISE. HOWEVERN, RAJARATNAM DID SEEM TO APPRECIATE FACT THAT OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS MAY NO LONGER BE PART OF A COMMON FRONT WITH SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA. WE MAY STILL HAVE SOME LEEWAY WITH RESPECT TO SINGAPORE'S POSITION. I DID NOT BRING UP OUR WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT GOS ABSTENTION ON OUR RESOLUTION BECAUSE RAJARATNAM
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APPEARED POINTED IN THAT DIRECTION ANYWAY AND I DID NOT BELIEVE THIS NEW ELEMENT WOULD CONTRIBUTE ANYTHING AT PRESENT STAGE.
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